

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATE DISTRICT G

Sponsor Statement for SR 3

The impact kidney disease has on patients and our health care system cannot be understated. To put it in perspective, there are more than 40 million people in the United States with kidney disease. This is roughly equivalent to the entire population of California. Even worse, more people will die from kidney disease this year than breast or prostate cancer.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is often asymptomatic in the beginning making early detection a challenge. Alaska has many high-risk populations. The high-risk ethnicities in Alaska include African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Alaska Natives and Native Americans. Another at risk group includes individuals aged 65 and older, which make up nearly 14% of our population. Those living with kidney disease face challenges on many different fronts. Whether it is accessing a donor kidney for transplant, choosing between home or in-clinic dialysis while juggling a job or family responsibilities, or the constellation of challenges for this population adds an additional layer of stress to an already challenging chronic condition. A further complication for those suffering from chronic kidney disease is a lack of health insurance which results in lack of care and poorer health outcomes compared to 8% average nationwide. Nearly 13% of our population under the age of 65 are underinsured.

Senate Resolution 3 seeks to reduce the impact of chronic kidney disease by increasing awareness and screening.